

2nd Monday I& II 2005

[Dn 9:4b-10](#)

"LORD, great and awesome God, you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who love you and observe your commandments! We have sinned, been wicked and done evil; we have rebelled and departed from your commandments and your laws.

We have not obeyed your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land. Justice, O Lord, is on your side; we are shamefaced even to this day: we, the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel, near and far, in all the countries to which you have scattered them because of their treachery toward you. O LORD, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against you.

But yours, O Lord, our God, **are compassion and forgiveness!** Yet we rebelled against you and paid no heed to your command, O LORD, our God, to live by the law you gave us through your servants the prophets."

[Lk 6:36-38](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **"Stop judging** and you will not be judged. **Stop condemning** and you will not be condemned. **Forgive** and you will be forgiven. **Give** and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.

For the measure with which you measure

will in return be measured out to you."

This passage from Daniel is the prayer of confession from the great prophet for his people in exile. It is a "We" confession. "We have not obeyed...We are shamefaced."

During this penitential season, many of us are examining ourselves closely to shed the clutter that is standing in the way of our acceptance and appreciation of God's love.

But Daniel's confession is for a people. We are called to look not only at our individual relationship with God, but our relationship to each other and our relationship as a people to God.

As a people, what do we need to confess before God so as to come to be in right relationship with Him?

The Gospel passage comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. It is here that Luke situates the beatitudes: "Blessed are those..." The imperatives we heard in the Gospel today were preceded by "Love your enemies". It is in the context of this love that Jesus tells us to:

Be merciful,
stop judging,
stop condemning,
forgive others
and give.

How we act on these imperatives is not simply our actions towards others. It puts us in relationship with each other.

We are called to be nothing less than the image of Daniel's compassionate and

forgiving God ...for each other, in
relationship with Jesus.